STLAS JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY

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NO. 43

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WHAT WAS THE SECRET OF "THE THIRD EAR"?

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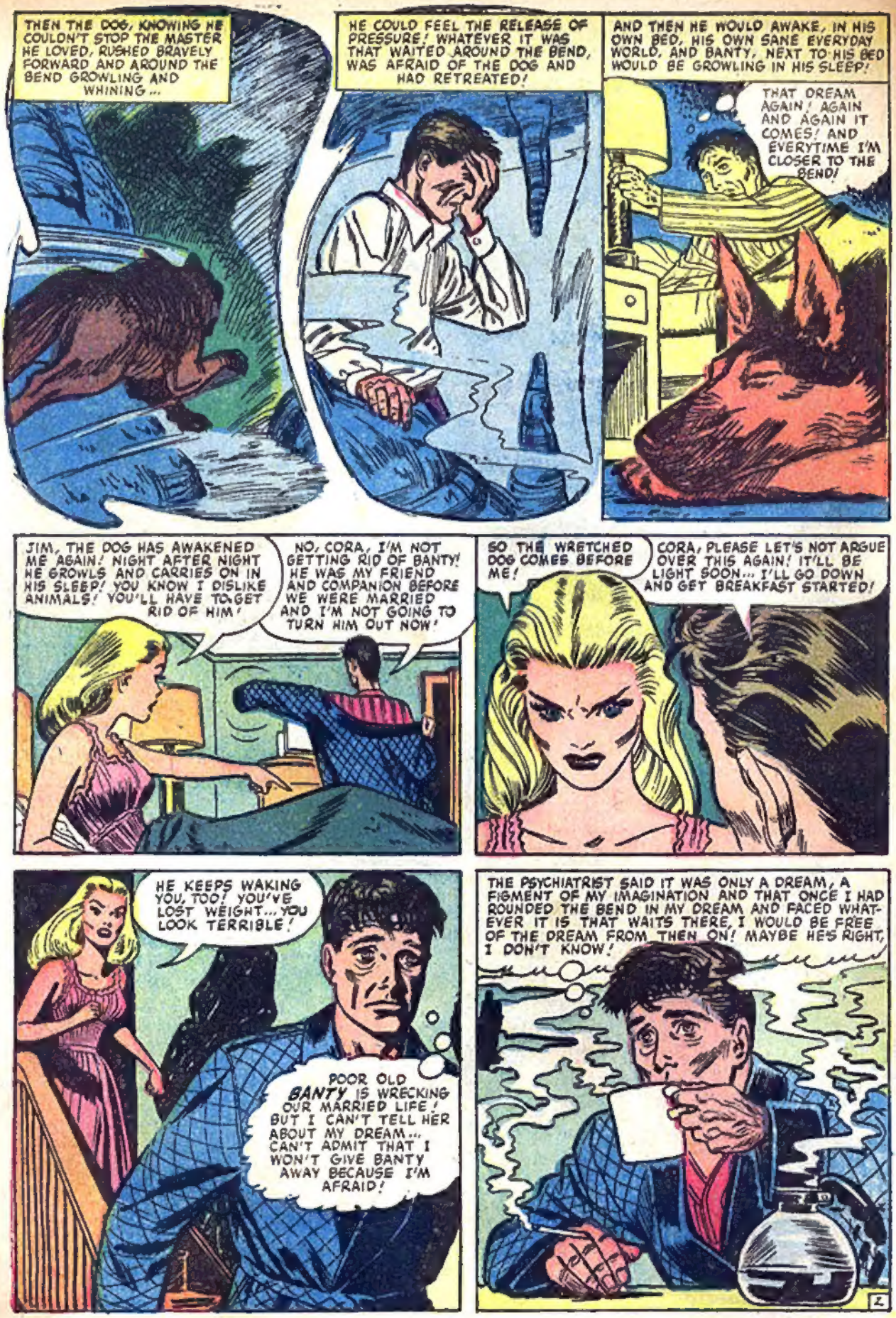
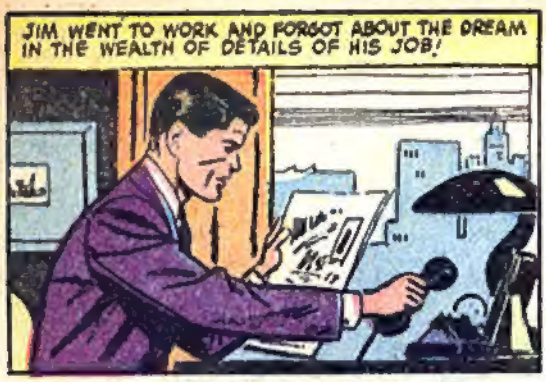
IT'S WAITING FOR ME!
IT WAS A STRANGE, UNEARTHLY WORLD, AND ALWAYS HE WALKED THE SAME PATH... EACH NIGHT COMING CLOSER TO THE BEND AHEAD! HIS DOG BANTY MOVED NEXT TO HIM, NEVER LEAVING HIS SIDE, GROWLING AND BRISTLING WHEN THEY NEARED THE BEND, FOR BEYOND THAT BEND SOMETHING LURKED!
BESIDE HIM, BANTY GROWLED AND SHOVED AGAINST HIS LEGS TRYING TO STOP HIM FROM GOING FURTHER.. WHINING NOW, PLEADING FOR HIM TO STOP...
HE KNEW THAT SOMETHING WAITED... CROUCHED, SHADOWY, BEHIND THE BEND... SOMETHING THAT DREW HIM TO IT, AS THOUGH HE WAS HYPNOTIZED AND WITHOUT CONTROL OF HIS BODY...
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #3
4

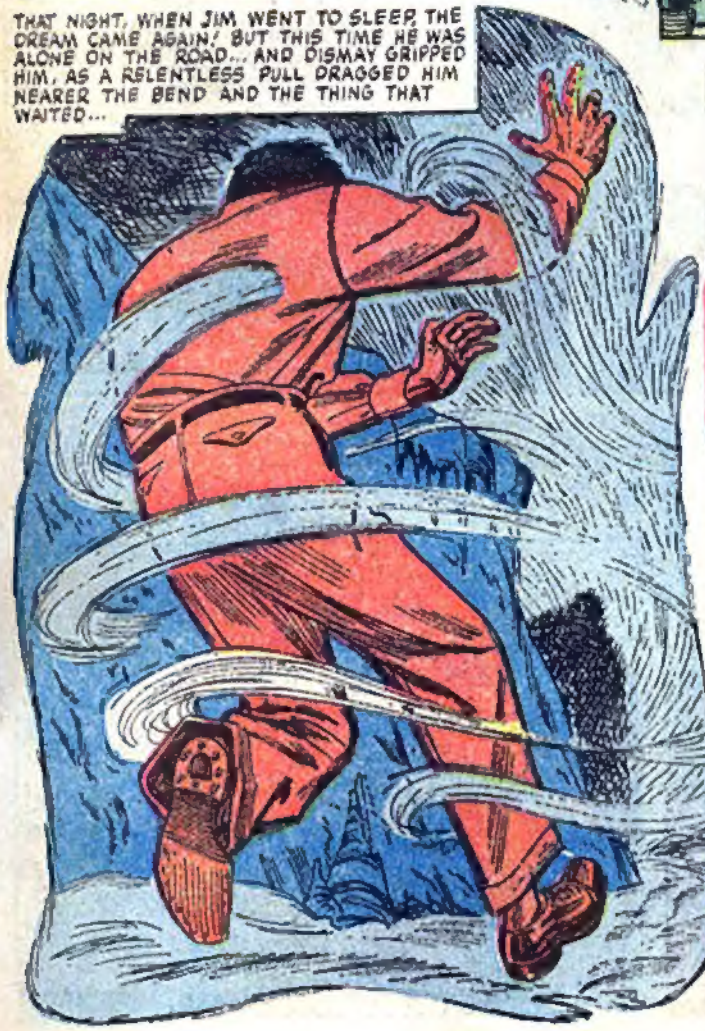

THEN THE DOG, KNOWING HE COULDN'T STOP THE MASTER HE LOVED, RUSHED BRAVELY FORWARD AND AROUND THE BEND GROWLING AND WHINING...
HE COULD FEEL THE RELEASE OF PRESSURE! WHATEVER IT WAS THAT WAITED AROUND THE BEND, WAS AFRAID OF THE DOG AND HAD RETREATED!
AND THEN HE WOULD AWAKE, IN HIS OWN BED, HIS OWN SANE EVERYDAY WORLD, AND BANTY, NEXT TO HIS BED WOULD BE GROWLING IN HIS SLEEP!
THAT DREAM AGAIN! AGAIN AND AGAIN IT COMES! AND EVERYTIME I'M CLOSER TO THE BEND!
JIM, THE DOG HAS AWAKENED ME AGAIN! NIGHT AFTER NIGHT HE GROWLS AND CARRIES ON IN HIS SLEEP! YOU KNOW I DISLIKE ANIMALS! YOU'LL HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM!
NO, CORA, I'M NOT GETTING RID OF BANTY! HE WAS MY FRIEND AND COMPANION BEFORE WE WERE MARRIED AND I'M NOT GOING TO TURN HIM OUT NOW!
SO THE WRETCHED DOG COMES BEFORE ME!
CORA, PLEASE LET'S NOT ARGUE OVER THIS AGAIN! IT'LL BE LIGHT SOON... I'LL GO DOWN AND GET BREAKFAST STARTED!
HE KEEPS WAKING YOU, TOO! YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT... YOU LOOK TERRIBLE!
POOR OLD BANTY IS WRECKING OUR MARRIED LIFE! BUT I CAN'T TELL HER ABOUT MY DREAM... CAN'T ADMIT THAT I WON'T GIVE BANTY AWAY BECAUSE I'M AFRAID!
THE PSYCHIATRIST SAID IT WAS ONLY A DREAM, A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION AND THAT ONCE I HAD ROUNDED THE BEND IN MY DREAM AND FACED WHATEVER IT IS THAT WAITS THERE, I WOULD BE FREE OF THE DREAM FROM THEN ON! MAYBE HE'S RIGHT, I DON'T KNOW!
2



WHEN HE CAME HOME THAT EVENING, CORA MET HIM WITH A SELF-SATISFIED SMILE...
CORA! HAVE YOU SEEN BANTY? HE USUALLY MEETS ME AT THE DOOR!
JIM, I GAVE BANTY AWAY TO THE STODDARDS! HE PLAYS ALL DAY WITH THEIR CHILDREN AND HE'LL BE HAPPIER WITH THEM!

CORA, I TOLD YOU I WANTED BANTY!
BUT, JIM, HE'LL HAVE LOVE AND AFFECTION ALL DAY! BE REASONABLE! HE'S CAUSED ALL OUR ARGUMENTS AND I WANT OUR MARRIAGE TO WORK BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, JIM!

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, CORA!
MAYBE THIS WILL SETTLE THAT DREAM STUFF! IT ISN'T RIGHT FOR A GROWN MAN TO PUT SUCH FANTASTIC FAITH IN A MERE DOG JUST BECAUSE OF A DREAM!


THAT NIGHT, WHEN JIM WENT TO SLEEP, THE DREAM CAME AGAIN! BUT THIS TIME HE WAS ALONE ON THE ROAD... AND DISMAY GRIPPED HIM, AS A RELENTLESS PULL DRAGGED HIM NEARER THE BEND AND THE THING THAT WAITED...

HE AWOKE SUDDENLY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, JIM? YOU YELLED OUT SO LOUD YOU AWAKENED ME!
NOTHING! JUST A... A SILLY DREAM! GO BACK TO SLEEP, CORA!

BUT THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY SLEEP FOR JIM... THAT NIGHT OR THE NEXT OR THE NEXT! HE PRETENDED TO SLEEP, THEN SPENT THE NIGHT KEEPING HIMSELF AWAKE! HE WAS AFRAID TO SLEEP... AND TO DREAM!

HE BECAME HAGGARD AND ILL! HE TOOK A WEEK OFF FROM WORK AT THE SUGGESTION OF HIS BOSS, WHO NOTICED HIS CONDITION! AND HE SPENT THAT WEEK TRYING TO FIND BANTY!

THE STODDARDS? THEY MOVED AWAY A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO! I'M TAKING CARE OF THE PLACE UNTIL IT'S RENTED! LEFT NO FORWARDING ADDRESS ... DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY WENT!

FOR RENT

BANTY WAS WITH THE STODDARDS, AND THE STODDARDS HAD GONE! THAT NIGHT, HE LAY IN BED, TRYING TO KEEP AWAKE!

CHECK WITH THE POST OFFICE TOMORROW! THEY'LL KNOW WHERE THE STODDARDS AND BANTY HAVE GONE! THEN... I'LL...

BUT THE HUMAN BODY CAN STAND JUST SO MUCH! JIM SLEPT... AND HE WAS IN THAT WORLD AGAIN, THE BEND WAS IN FRONT OF HIM, HE STEPPED AROUND IT...

HE KNEW THAT THE THING THAT WAITED, HAD HIM! BUT SOMETHING BRUSHED BY HIM GROWLING... AND HE AWOKE!

THE PSYCHIATRIST WAS RIGHT! HE SAID THAT IF I ONCE REACHED THE CONCLUSION OF THE DREAM, I'D BE ALL RIGHT! I DID TONIGHT! I... WHAT'S THAT SOUND? AT THE FRONT DOOR...

HE RUSHED DOWN THE STAIRS! THERE WAS A SCRATCHING, A WHINING AT THE DOOR! HE SWUNG IT OPEN! IT WAS BANTY!

BANTY!

WHAT IS IT, JIM?

IT'S BANTY! HE CAME BACK AND ATTACKED THE THING AND... I MEAN HE'S HURT!

AND HE CRAWLED ALL THE WAY HOME FROM WHERE THE STODDARDS WENT FOR HELP! OH, JIM, I DIDN'T REALIZE...

AND JIM KNEW THEN THAT THE PSYCHIATRIST WAS WRONG! SOMEHOW, IN SLEEP, HE HAD ENTERED SOME OTHER STRANGE WORLD WHERE SOMETHING HAD CALLED HIM, LURKING AND WAITING FOR HIM! BUT BANTY HAD COME AND FOUGHT FOR HIM, AND THE THING THAT WAITED WAS DEAD AND HE WOULD NEVER HAVE THAT DREAM AGAIN!

HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT! I'LL TAKE HIM TO A VETERINARIAN! CORA, BANTY STAYS WITH US FROM NOW ON! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! BUT I KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT! SOMEHOW, I'M BEGINNING TO LOVE THAT OLD DOG, TOO!

THE END

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IN THE LAND, THERE WAS THE DECEITFUL SELF-SERVING DICTATOR... AND THERE WAS ALSO...

the INVISIBLE WOMAN!

NO WONDER YOU DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!
OUR LAND IS CURSED! THE "INVISIBLE WOMAN" KEEPS STRIKING AGAIN AND AGAIN... AND NOT EVEN OUR GREAT LEADER CAN STOP HER!
The INVISIBLE WOMAN

LATER AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SECURITY POLICE...

HOW LONG MUST THIS GO ON? I WARN YOU... IF THE INVISIBLE TERRORIST IS NOT APPREHENDED SOON, I SHALL CLEAR OUT THIS WHOLE DEPARTMENT!
BELIEVE ME, SIR... WE ARE DOING OUR BEST!

THEN, YOUR BEST IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
SIR! I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU!
AH, ANNA ROJIK, MY RESPECTED COLLEAGUE IN THE HIGH COUNCIL! I AM AT YOUR SERVICE!
THE POLICE FOLLOW ME WHEREVER I GO ... MY STAFF HAS BEEN INTERROGATED... I HAVE EVEN HEARD RUMORS THAT I AM SUSPECTED OF BEING THE "INVISIBLE WOMAN"!
I BESEECH YOU, SIR! PLEASE SAY THAT YOU DO NOT BELIEVE THE RUMORS!
I, NEVER BELIEVE RUMORS, ANNA! BUT FACTS ARE A DIFFERENT STORY!
WHAT FACTS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
COME, SVELI... WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO TODAY!
THAT NIGHT...
IT'S THE "INVISIBLE WOMAN"! SHE'S STRIKING AGAIN!
LOOK... SHE DROPPED THIS AS SHE FLED!
IT'S A MEMORANDUM BOOK! HER NAME IS IN IT... AND HER NAME IS ANNA ROJIK!
THE DICTATOR HIMSELF LED THE PARTY THAT MADE THE ARREST...
I AM INNOCENT!
I WISH I COULD BELIEVE YOU, ANNA... BUT THE FACTS TELL A DIFFERENT STORY!

AND THEN AT THE STATE-OPERATED RADIO STATION...
YOU NEED NO LONGER CRINGE IN FEAR, MY PEOPLE! YOUR LEADER HAS SEEN TO IT THAT THE "INVISIBLE WOMAN" SHALL NEVER STALK THE STREETS OF OUR LAND AGAIN!
NOW, IN HIS INNER OFFICE WITH SVELI, HIS AIDE...
OUR PLAN WORKED SMOOTHLY, DID IT NOT, SVELI? WE FEARED THAT ANNA ROJIK WAS BEGINNING TO SUSPECT HOW MUCH WE HAVE DRAINED FROM THE TREASURY!
SHE WAS POWERFUL IN THE COUNCIL...TOO HIGHLY RESPECTED BY THE PEOPLE! SO...USING A BIT OF MAGICIAN'S APPARATUS... A BIT OF MOB PSYCHOLOGY, AND A BIT OF PLANTED EVIDENCE, WE CREATED AN "INVIGIBLE WOMAN"...
...AND HAVE SUCCEEDED IN DISPOSING OF ANNA ROJIK!
NOW, WE MUST CHOOSE A NEW WOMAN FOR THE COUNCIL, SIR! THAT IS THE LAW, AS YOU WROTE IT...THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A WOMAN ON THE COUNCIL!
HMMM...THAT IS SO! AND I KNOW JUST THE ONE, TOO, OLGA PETROV...THAT BRAINLESS LITTLE FOOL WHO PROFESSESS AN INTEREST IN POLITICS!
BRING HER HERE FOR A BRIEFING, AT ONCE!
HERE, SIR? ALL THOSE PAPERS... THEY ARE YOUR PERSONAL ACCOUNTS! IF THEY WERE TO GET OUT TO THE PEOPLE, EVERYONE WOULD KNOW WHOSE INTERESTS YOU REALLY HAVE AT HEART!
FOOL, I CAN TWIST OLGA PETROV AROUND MY FINGER! HOW COULD ANYTHING GET OUT TO THE PEOPLE, WITH SENTRIES POSTED AT TEN YARD INTERVALS AROUND THE BUILDING?

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

draw me

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DRAW THIS GIRL'S HEAD 5 inches high. Use pencil. All drawings for December 1956 contest must be received by December 31. None returned. Winner notified. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible. Mail your drawing today!

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500 South 4th Street, Minneapolis 15, Minnesota

Please enter my attached drawing in your contest. (PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____ AGE _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ Zone _____ County _____

State _____ Occupation _____

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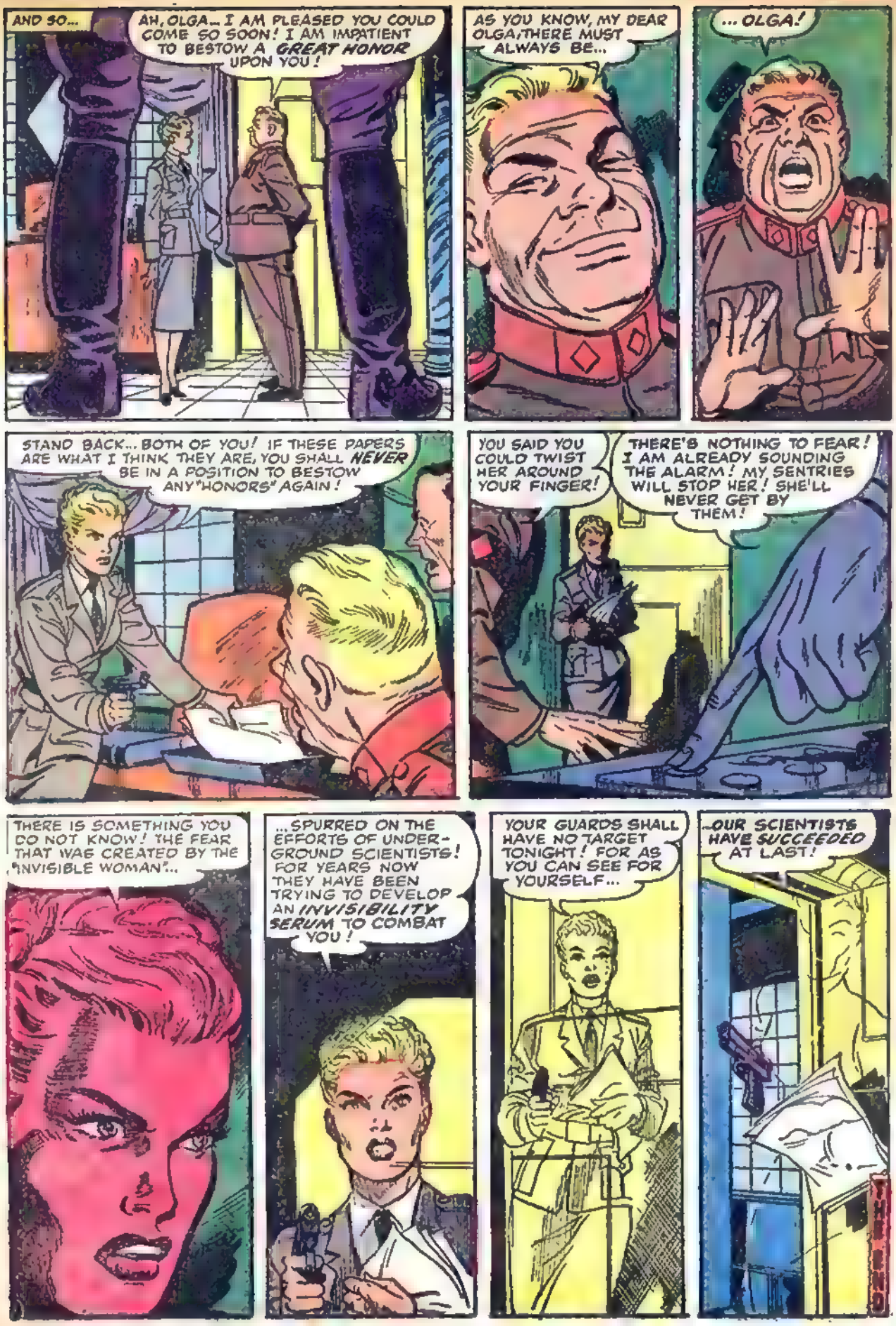
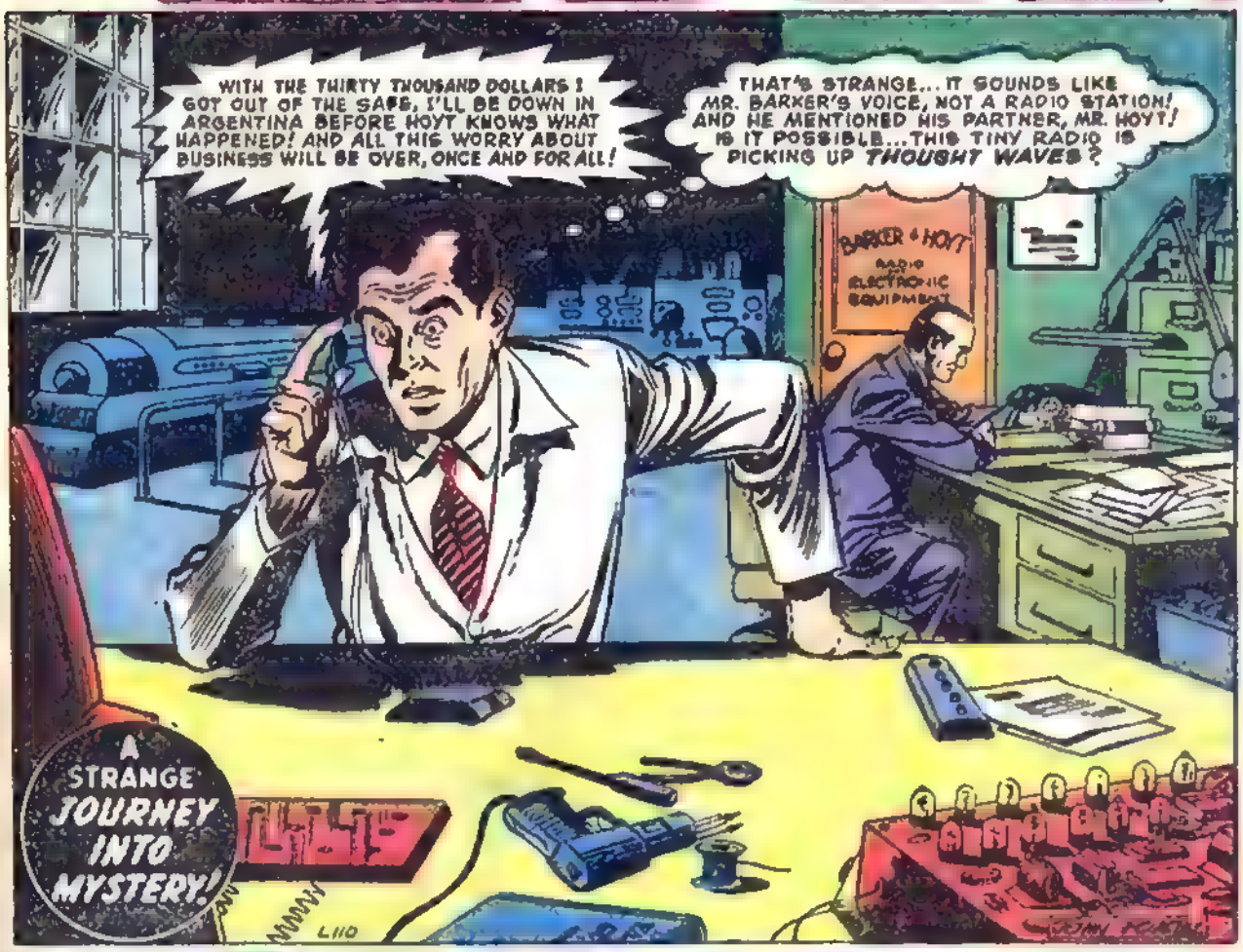
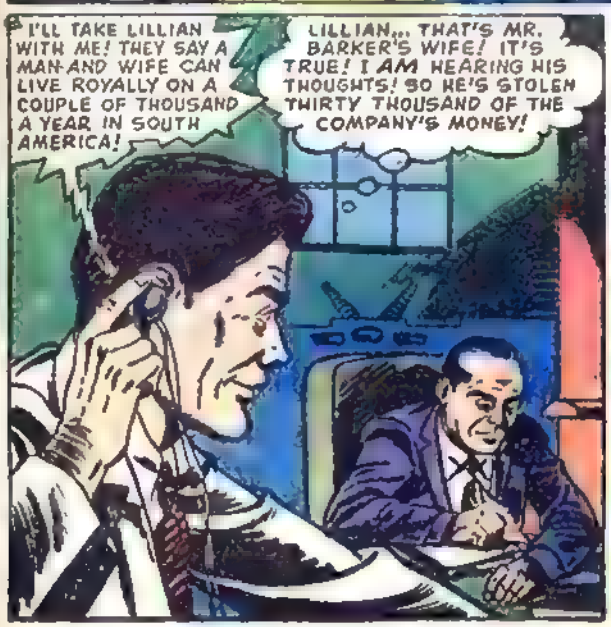

AND SO...
AH, OLGA... I AM PLEASED YOU COULD COME SO SOON! I AM IMPATIENT TO BESTOW A GREAT HONOR UPON YOU!
AS YOU KNOW, MY DEAR OLGA, THERE MUST ALWAYS BE...
... OLGA!
STAND BACK... BOTH OF YOU! IF THESE PAPERS ARE WHAT I THINK THEY ARE, YOU SHALL NEVER BE IN A POSITION TO BESTOW ANY "HONORS" AGAIN!
YOU SAID YOU COULD TWIST HER AROUND YOUR FINGER!
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR! I AM ALREADY SOUNDING THE ALARM! MY SENTRIES WILL STOP HER! SHE'LL NEVER GET BY THEM!
THERE IS SOMETHING YOU DO NOT KNOW! THE FEAR THAT WAS CREATED BY THE "INVISIBLE WOMAN"...
...SPURRED ON THE EFFORTS OF UNDER-GROUND SCIENTISTS! FOR YEARS NOW THEY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DEVELOP AN INVISIBILITY SERUM TO COMBAT YOU!
YOUR GUARDS SHALL HAVE NO TARGET TONIGHT! FOR AS YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF...
..OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE SUCCEEDED AT LAST!
THE END

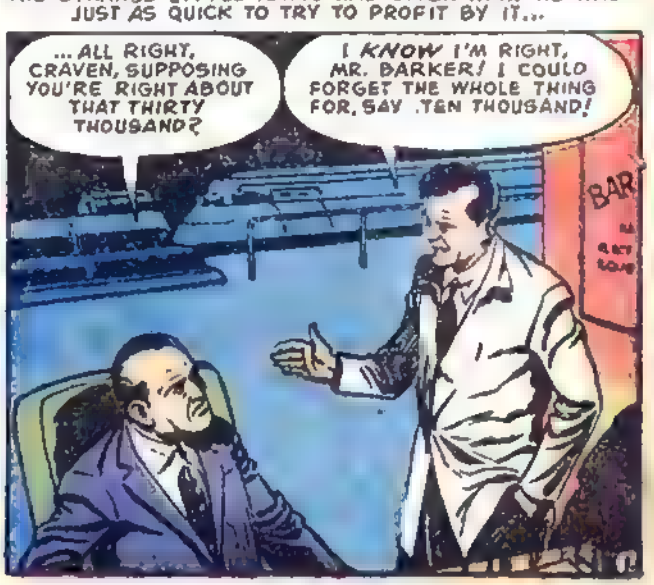
THE TINY INSTRUMENT, BORN OF WALT CRAVEN'S WARPED GENIUS, GAVE HIM A STRANGE POWER! AND INSTEAD OF USING IT FOR GOOD, HE EMPLOYED IT FOR AN EVIL PURPOSE THAT COULD ONLY LEAD TO DOOM!

the THIRD EAR


WITH THE THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS I GOT OUT OF THE SAFE, I'LL BE DOWN IN ARGENTINA BEFORE HOYT KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED! AND ALL THIS WORRY ABOUT BUSINESS WILL BE OVER, ONCE AND FOR ALL!
THAT'S STRANGE... IT SOUNDS LIKE MR. BARKER'S VOICE, NOT A RADIO STATION! AND HE MENTIONED HIS PARTNER, MR. HOYT! IS IT POSSIBLE...THIS TINY RADIO IS PICKING UP THOUGHT WAVES?
BARKER & HOYT
RADIO AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
A STRANGE JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!

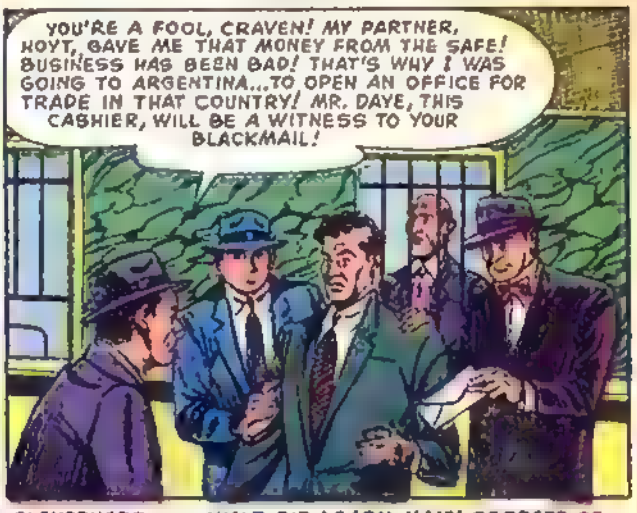

I'LL TAKE LILLIAN WITH ME! THEY SAY A MAN AND WIFE CAN LIVE ROYALLY ON A COUPLE OF THOUSAND A YEAR IN SOUTH AMERICA!
LILLIAN... THAT'S MR. BARKER'S WIFE! IT'S TRUE! I AM HEARING HIS THOUGHTS! SO HE'S STOLEN THIRTY THOUSAND OF THE COMPANY'S MONEY!

WALT CRAVEN WAS QUICK TO SEE THE UNEXPECTED ADVANTAGE THE STRANGE LITTLE RADIO HAD GIVEN HIM! HE WAS JUST AS QUICK TO TRY TO PROFIT BY IT...


...ALL RIGHT, CRAVEN, SUPPOSING YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT THIRTY THOUSAND?
I KNOW I'M RIGHT, MR. BARKER! I COULD FORGET THE WHOLE THING FOR, SAY .TEN THOUSAND!

I SEE! WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND OUT, BUT I KNOW WHEN I'M LICKED! I'LL GIVE YOU A CHECK...
NO, MR. BARKER, YOU'LL GIVE ME CASH! I'LL MEET YOU AT THE BANK TOMORROW MORNING!
BARKER AND HOYT
BARKER

A MOMENT AFTER EDWARD BARKER TURNED OVER AN ENVELOPE CONTAINING $10,000 TO THE BLACKMAILER, TWO DETECTIVES STEPPED UP AND FLASHED THEIR BADGES...


YOU'RE A FOOL, CRAVEN! MY PARTNER, HOYT, GAVE ME THAT MONEY FROM THE SAFE! BUSINESS HAS BEEN BAD! THAT'S WHY I WAS GOING TO ARGENTINA...TO OPEN AN OFFICE FOR TRADE IN THAT COUNTRY! MR. DAVE, THIS CASHIER, WILL BE A WITNESS TO YOUR BLACKMAIL!

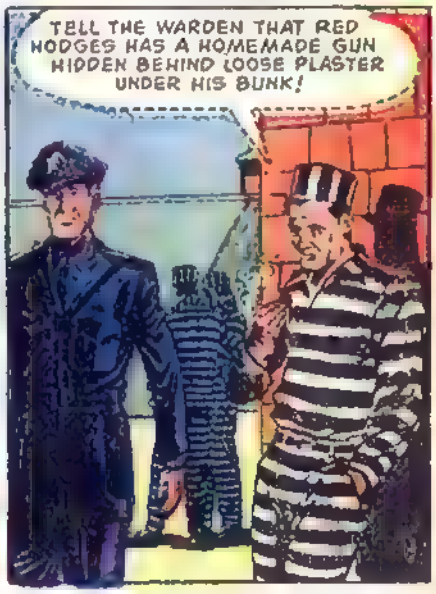
AFTER A SWIFT TRIAL, WALT CRAVEN APPEARED FOR SENTENCING... WEARING HIS THOUGHT-RECEIVING RADIO AS A "HEARING AID", HE WAS AWARE OF THE JUDGE'S WORDS EVEN BEFORE THEY WERE UTTERED...

TEN YEARS! I COULD NEVER LAST THAT LONG IN PRISON!
YOU GUESSED IT CORRECTLY, CRAVEN! I AM SENTENCING YOU TO TEN YEARS IN THE STATE PENITENTIARY!

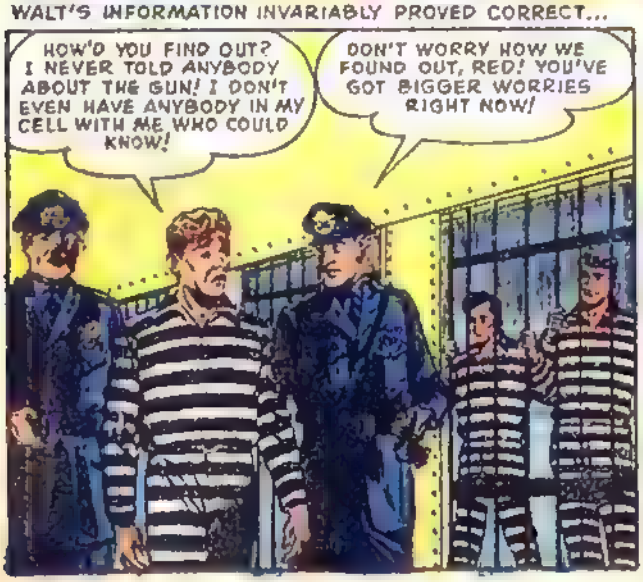
WITH HIS TWISTED CLEVERNESS, WALT CRAVEN FORESAW A USE FOR HIS THOUGHT RECEIVER, EVEN IN PRISON! AND SO HE WORE IT AS A "HEARING AID" THERE, TOO...

I HAVE A WAY OF LEARNING SECRETS, WARDEN POOLE! YOU'LL FIND ME A VALUABLE MAN TO HAVE AROUND... IF I'M TREATED RIGHT!
IT'S EVERY MAN'S DUTY IN THIS PRISON TO KEEP ME INFORMED! IF YOU DO YOUR DUTY, YOU WON'T BE TOO UNHAPPY HERE, CRAVEN!

WALT DID LEARN MANY SECRETS OF HIS FELLOW CONVICTS THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF HIS "HEARING AID", AND HE FOUND WAYS TO GET THEM BACK TO THE WARDEN...



WALT'S INFORMATION INVARIABLY PROVED CORRECT...


HOW'D YOU FIND OUT? I NEVER TOLD ANYBODY ABOUT THE GUN! I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANYBODY IN MY CELL WITH ME WHO COULD KNOW!
DON'T WORRY HOW WE FOUND OUT, RED! YOU'VE GOT BIGGER WORRIES RIGHT NOW!

EVERY DAY, REPORTS OF THE PRISONERS' ACTIVITIES WERE RELAYED TO WARDEN JOHN POOLE...

CRAVEN SAYS JOE ALLISON SMUGGLED A HACKSAW BLADE OUT OF THE MACHINE SHOP! HE'S GOT IT TAPED TO THE OUTSIDE OF A WINDOW BAR!
HOW DOES THAT MAN GET HIS INFORMATION? ALLISON ISN'T EVEN IN THE SAME CELL BLOCK! I DOUBT THEY EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER!

I GUESS IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER HOW HE FINDS OUT THESE THINGS! WE'RE SURE KEEPING THE PRISONERS IN LINE WITH HIS HELP!
I'M NOT SURE I LIKE IT, McNULTY...IT'S UNCANNY! WELL, GO LOOK FOR THAT HACKSAW BLADE, AND IF YOU FIND IT, BRING JOE ALLISON TO ME!

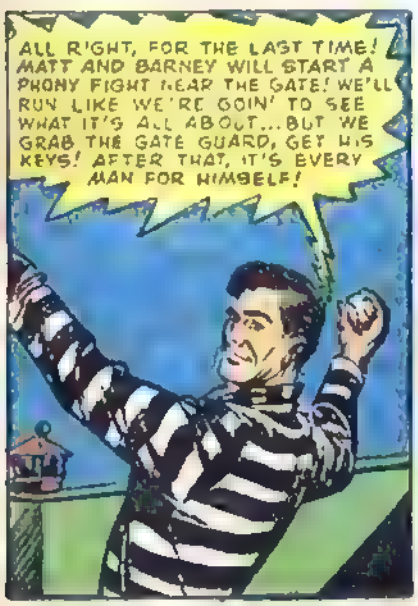
THE HACKSAW BLADE WAS WHERE WALT CRAVEN SAID IT WOULD BE FOUND...

I KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT ABOUT THAT BLADE...BUT SOMEBODY MUST'VE FOUND OUT! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON THAT STOOLIE...
YOU JUST WATCH YOUR STEP, ALLISON! YOU'RE DEPRIVED OF PRIVILEGES FOR THE NEXT MONTH!

THESE SECRETS OF WALT CRAVEN'S WERE OF NO GREAT IMPORT...HE WAITED FOR SOMETHING BIG TO HAPPEN AND ONE DAY THAT BIG MOMENT CAME...

GET THIS STRAIGHT... WE KEEP THIS BUSINESS TO OURSELVES! TILL THE SECOND IT HAPPENS, NOBODY GETS IN ON THIS BREAK WITH US! IT'LL BE TUESDAY, RIGHT AFTER THE NOON MEAL, WHEN WE'RE HERE IN THE YARD!
LET'S GO OVER IT AGAIN, DUKE!

SOME SIXTY FEET AWAY, WALT CRAVEN COULD HEAR HIS CELLMATE DUKE BYRNES' PLAN TO BREAK OUT OF PRISON...


ALL R'GHT, FOR THE LAST TIME! MATT AND BARNEY WILL START A PHONY FIGHT NEAR THE GATE! WE'LL RUN LIKE WE'RE GOIN' TO SEE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT...BUT WE GRAB THE GATE GUARD, GET HIS KEYS! AFTER THAT, IT'S EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF!

WALT KNEW WHAT HE HAD TO DO...

LISTEN, GORDON, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME! MAKE LIKE WE'RE HEADING FOR THE INFIRMARY, BUT AFTER WE GET INSIDE, TAKE ME TO THE WARDEN! THIS IS BIG STUFF!
OKAY, CRAVEN! WARDEN POOLE SAYS YOU CAN SEE HIM ANY TIME YOU WANT!

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS IMPRISONMENT THAT WALT CRAVEN HAD GONE IN PERSON TO SEE WARDEN POOLE...

YEAH, IT'S IMPORTANT, ALL RIGHT! THERE'S GOING TO BE A BREAK!

WHAT! ARE YOU SURE OF THIS, CRAVEN? WHEN IS IT GOING TO BE? WHO ARE THE MEN?

I HAVEN'T BEEN WRONG YET, HAVE I, WARDEN? BUT I'M NOT DOING ANY MORE TALKING TILL I KNOW I'M GOING TO GET SOMETHING IN RETURN! I WANT YOU TO RECOMMEND ME FOR A PAROLE!

IF YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THIS, CRAVEN, YOU'LL DESERVE A BREAK! I'LL GO BEFORE THE PAROLE BOARD IN YOUR BEHALF WHEN IT MEETS HERE!

THE BREAK IS TO BE RIGHT AFTER LUNCH, ON TUESDAY! MY CELLMATE, DUKE BYRNES, IS THE RINGLEADER! THERE ARE AT LEAST SEVEN OTHERS WHOSE NAMES I DON'T KNOW!

ALL RIGHT, CRAVEN, I WANT YOU TO REPEAT THIS FOR THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD...

WALT TOLD GUARD CAPTAIN REESE THE STORY OF THE IMPENDING PRISON BREAK...

IT'LL DO NO GOOD TO QUESTION DUKE BYRNES! HE'D DENY EVERYTHING! I CAN'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY THAN TO *LET* THEM TRY THEIR BREAK! IF WE CLAMP THE LID ON, THEY'LL JUST PUT IT OFF TILL ANOTHER TIME!

YES, LET THEM TRY, AND WE'LL BE READY FOR *THEM*! I WANT MEN POSTED OUTSIDE, FLANKING THE GATE WITH MACHINE GUNS! WHEN THEY SEE WE'RE READY FOR THEM, THEY'LL BACK DOWN...OR TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES!

WALT CRAVEN FELT A THRILL OF EXULTATION! HE KNEW NOTHING WOULD STOP THE DESPERATE MEN ONCE THEY HAD OPENED THE GATES...NOTHING SHORT OF STEEL BULLETS! TUESDAY MIGHT BE THEIR LAST DAY ON EARTH, BUT *HE'D* BE ON HIS WAY TO PAROLE! AT LAST, THE BIG MOMENT CAME...

CRAVEN, I'M INVITIN' YOU IN ON THIS, 'CAUSE YOU'RE A NICE, QUIET GUY! I LIKE YOU! IN JUST TWO MINUTES, WE'RE BUSTIN' OUT OF HERE!

W-WHAT? *NO*, BYRNES... COUNT ME OUT!

NOW THAT YOU *KNOW* ABOUT IT, YOU *GOT* TO COME ALONG! WE NEED EVERY MAN! I'M LEADIN' THE WAY, AND YOU'LL BE RIGHT ALONGSIDE ME... OR ELSE!

THE FAKE FIGHT STARTED! DUKE BYRNES GRIPPED HIS CELLMATE'S ARM AND STARTED FOR THE GATE GUARD! THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK NOW...AND WALT CRAVEN, THE MAN WITH THE "THIRD EAR"... *KNEW WHAT WAS COMING!*

THE END

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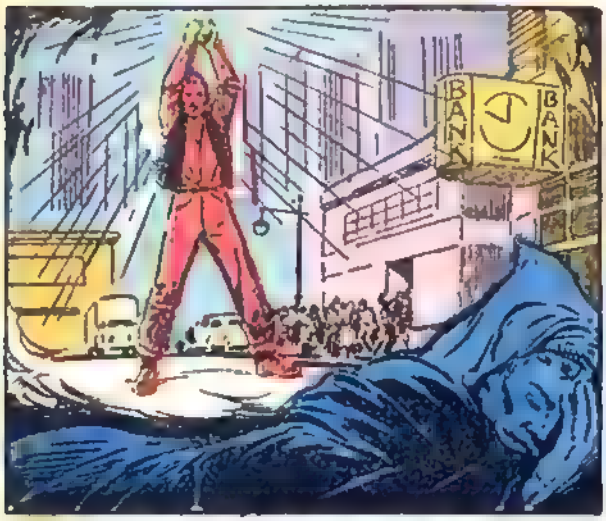
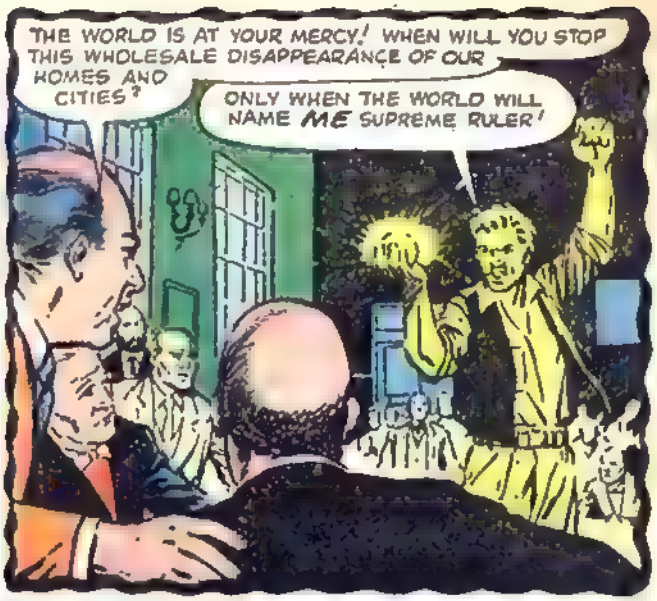
THE SECRET OF THE STRANGE STONE

WHAT IS IT, HENRY? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF METEOR! IT'S GOING TO FALL IN THE FIELD! I'M GOING OUT THERE!
WILLIAMSON

DESPITE ITS GLOW, IT WAS COOL TO THE TOUCH, AND SO HE BROUGHT IT BACK WITH HIM INTO THE HOUSE...
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TOUCHED IT! I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF IT!
IT'S HARMLESS, I'M SURE, AND RATHER PRETTY, THE WAY IT GLOWS...
I'LL PUT IT HERE BY THE LAMP, WHERE WE CAN GET A BETTER LOOK AT IT!
AND THEN IT HAPPENED, SLOWLY BUT STEADILY BEFORE THEIR SHOCK-FILLED EYES...
HENRY! LOOK!
N-NO... IT CAN'T BE!
IT'S SENDING OUT RAYS, AND THE LAMP IS DISAPPEARING!
BUT THOSE RAYS DIDN'T BOTHER US! IT PROBABLY EFFECTS ONLY NON-LIVING THINGS!
I DON'T CARE— GET RID OF IT!
BUT INSTEAD, HE TOSSED THE GLOWING STONE INSIDE HIS STRONGBOX AND SNAPPED DOWN THE LID...
THIS BOX IS MADE OF HEAVY GAUGE STEEL! IT MIGHT SLOW DOWN THE RAYS FOR A LITTLE WHILE!
I'VE GOT TO THINK THIS THRU, MARTHA! THIS STONE CAN CHANGE OUR LIVES! IT CAN EVEN CHANGE THE WORLD!
2

THAT NIGHT, HIS SLEEP WAS FILLED WITH TURBULENT DREAMS, AND BEFORE THE STRANGE STONE'S RAYS, ENTIRE CITIES VANISHED INTO THIN AIR

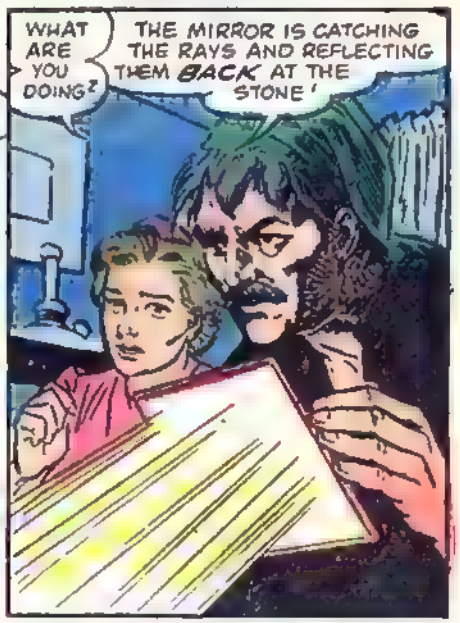


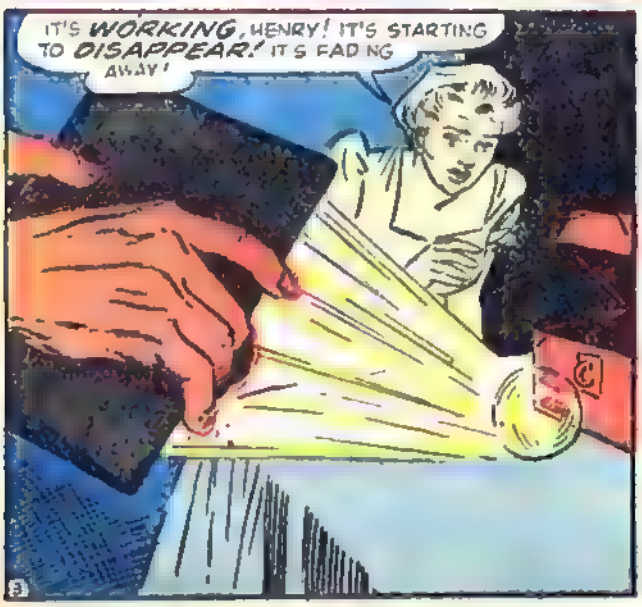

THE WORLD IS AT YOUR MERCY! WHEN WILL YOU STOP THIS WHOLESALE DISAPPEARANCE OF OUR HOMES AND CITIES?
ONLY WHEN THE WORLD WILL NAME ME SUPREME RULER!

SUDDENLY HE WAS AWAKE, AND PANIC CLUTCHED AT HIS HEART...

ONCE AGAIN, THE STRANGE GLOWING STONE WAS BROUGHT INTO THE OPEN...

WITH TREMBLING HANDS, HE HELD THE MIRROR ALOFT...





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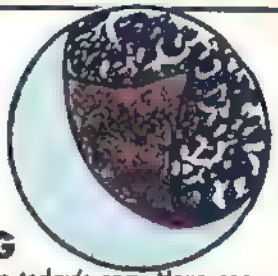

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THE LIVING PORTRAIT

EZRA STANDISH was a man of independent means. He was also the sole owner of the Standish Art Galleries which boasted a fine collection of Rembrandts, Rubens, Vermeers and Van Goghs. He had a coveted reputation as the world's foremost authority on precious paintings. Wealthy patrons of the arts came to him to have their landscapes and portraits appraised. On his word alone, they were adjudged genuine or discarded as cheap copies of an original master's work. On his word alone, fortunes were paid for art treasures.

Ezra Standish had prestige and power. Yet he was an unhappy man. Nobody suspected that Ezra was a lonely, old bachelor. He had surrounded himself with beautiful paintings all his life, but he had been too busy to find beauty in life itself. He had found no time for love or marriage, and now in his advanced years, his home was barren except for the beautiful canvases that hung on his walls.

On one particular night, however he forgot his personal problems. An original Leonardo Da Vinci painting had been discovered in Italy, and after a frantic week of negotiating, Ezra had purchased the portrait. The almost priceless art possession now hung on the center wall of his living room, and he stood before it, studying each perfect detail.

The portrait was of a man who had obviously occupied royal or noble station in life. Ezra was fascinated by the sardonic smile on the man's face and the particularly glittering eyes.

"It's so life-like, I'd almost expect him to step from the frame and sit down with me for a game of chess," he mused. "And his smile! It's as though he were enjoying a colossal trick played on me."

He stepped closer to the canvas and rubbed at the oils in the lower corner of the painting. His heart suddenly pounded as some of the paint came away on his fingers. Often, the great masters painted some of their works on top of a previous failure. Was it possible there was another painting on the sub-coating of the canvas?

But why would the paint still be fresh if this was a genuine Da Vinci? Certainly after the centuries that had passed, the paint should be hard and dry. Was it possible that he, an authority on art, had been duped? Was it possible that he had been fooled by a duplication by a rank, unknown amateur? If such news ever leaked out, his reputation would be ruined.

He began to rub furiously at the corner. The paint came away freely. He knew immediately that the paint was fresh. He studied the painting closely with a pocket magnifier and then clapped a hand to his head in dismay.

"It's a fake, an utter hoax!" he groaned. "I could go back and sue the man who sold me the painting, but my prestige would be shattered. It would be better if I destroyed it or dumped it in the ocean. That way, my folly would never be discovered. But how could I account for its loss to the insurance company . . . particularly after *I* appraised its value at a quarter of a million dollars?"

"Please discard those wild notions," a voice spoke up. "I have no desire to be mutilated or dropped in the ocean. I find it quite comfortable here, and I'd like you to continue to be pleased by me."

"What's that? Who spoke then?" Ezra stammered, his eyes roving over the living room.

"I did, sir! Right above you. You purchased me and I am your humble servant."

Ezra's startled gaze focused on the smiling face of his new portrait. "But I can't believe . . . you spoke to me. You're just a figure in a painting, a figment of an artist's imagination."

"I'm just as real as you want me to be, sir," the painting replied. "I pledged myself silence as long as you admired me and kept me here. But I am constrained to speak now that you think of disposing of me."

"But I *can't* keep you," Ezra protested. "You're just an imitation, a copy of a real Da Vinci. Any of the experts will be able to tell you're not genuine. I'll be discredited."

"But what does it matter that I'm not the creation of Da Vinci?" the painting persisted. "As long as I give you pleasure, is that not the real basis of an art treasure?"

"You just don't understand!" Ezra wailed. "It makes all the difference in the world if an artist like Da Vinci painted you instead of an unknown. There's a difference in craftsmanship, detail, mixture of color, and . . ."

". . . life-like quality," the figure finished for him. "Experts

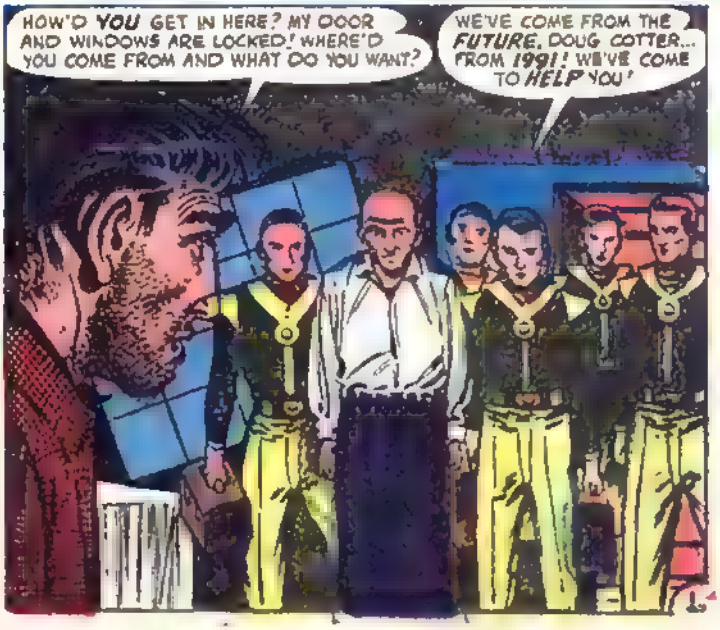
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY

WHAT MYSTIFIED DOUG COTTER WAS WHY THE STRANGE PEOPLE CHOSE TO VISIT *HIM*...BUT HE WAS GLAD THEY CAME! ONLY THE SHIFTY-EYED OLD MAN WHO WAS WITH THEM, WORRIED DOUG! HE JUST SEEMED TO KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT THE PRIVATE LIFE OF...

THE PANHANDLER

A STRANGE JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!
A FEW DOLLARS...THAT'S ALL THE CHUMPS WOULD PART WITH! ALL DAY LONG IT'S "MISTER CAN YOU SPARE TWO BITS FOR A HUNGRY MAN?" IT'S LIKE TRYING TO PULL TEETH TO GET A QUARTER FROM THOSE TIGHT-FISTED PIKERS!
K929

A PANHANDLER, A BEGGAR...THAT WAS DOUG COTTER! IT WAS A MATTER OF PRIDE THAT AT 30, HE'D NEVER WORKED A DAY IN HIS LIFE!


HOW'D *YOU* GET IN HERE? MY DOOR AND WINDOWS ARE LOCKED! WHERE'D YOU COME FROM AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WE'VE COME FROM THE *FUTURE*, DOUG COTTER... FROM *1991*! WE'VE COME TO *HELP* YOU!

FROM THE FUTURE? IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A GAG? AND WHY PICK ON ME TO HELP?
WE'VE SEEN YOUR PRISON RECORD! BELIEVE ME, A NEW INVENTION INVOLVING TIME AND SPACE HAS ENABLED US TO COME HERE FROM 1991!

THAT SHOWS YOU'RE LYING! I DON'T HAVE A PRISON RECORD! SURE, I'VE BEEN ARRESTED A FEW TIMES FOR PANHANDLING, BUT I ALWAYS GOT OFF!
YOU HAVEN'T A PRISON RECORD YET, BUT YOU WILL HAVE...UNLESS YOU LET US HELP YOU!

THE MEN OF THE FUTURE MADE NO MOVE TO LEAVE! DOUG SHRUGGED THEM OFF AND LET THEM WANDER INTO THE BEDROOM...

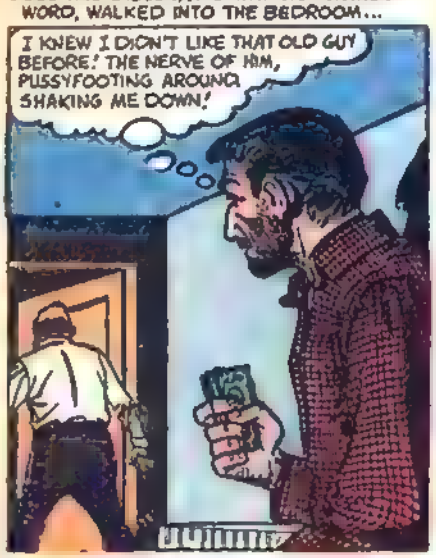
OUR STAY HERE, IN THE PAST, IS LIMITED TO THIRTY-TWO HOURS! WE'LL HAVE TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR, BUT WE WON'T MIND THAT, IF WE SUCCEED IN STRAIGHTENING YOU OUT BEFORE WE LEAVE!
THEY SURE CAME LOADED WITH DOUGH! I'D LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON SOME OF IT!

WE'RE ALL TIRED, DOUG SO IF YOU DON'T MIND WE'LL TURN IN FOR THE NIGHT! TOMORROW, WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT HELPING YOU!
LISTEN I DIDN'T INVITE YOU HERE! I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP, AND I WON'T TAKE IT!

THE VISION OF THOSE CRISP BILLS STUCK IN DOUG'S MIND! IT WAS ALL HE COULD DO TO WAIT AN HOUR TO BE SURE HIS VISITORS WERE ASLEEP...

BUT AS DOUG CAME FROM THEIR ROOM...

THE OLD MAN TOOK THREE OF THE SIX BILLS DOUG HAD STOLEN, AND WITH NO FURTHER WORD, WALKED INTO THE BEDROOM...



DOUG COTTER HURRIED FROM HIS FLAT SHORTLY AFTER DAWN, NEXT MORNING...

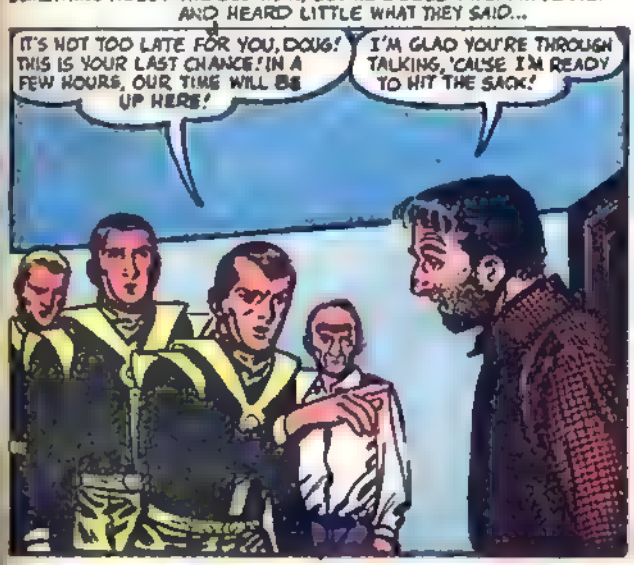
HIS SUDDEN, EASY WEALTH DIDN'T CHANGE DOUG'S HABITS! HE WORKED THE CITY'S BUSIEST CORNERS, KEEPING AN EYE PEELED FOR THE LAW...

A THIN DIME! THOSE GUYS FROM 1991 ARE BACK AT MY PLACE, LOADED WITH DOUGH, AND I'M WASTING MY TIME SQUEEZING DIMES OUT OF OLD LADIES!

IT WAS TEN O'CLOCK WHEN THE PANHANDLER RETURNED HOME THAT NIGHT...

YOU DISAPPOINTED US, DOUG! BY THE TIME WE GOT UP THIS MORNING, YOU WERE GONE! BUT PERHAPS THERE'S STILL TIME!
OKAY, GO AHEAD AND TALK! I'M TIRED, SO IF I DON'T PAY ATTENTION, YOU CAN MARK IT DOWN TO MY BAD MANNERS!

DOUG'S VISITORS LECTURED AND GAVE HIM WARNING AND SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THE OLD MAN, BUT HE DOZED INTERMITTENTLY AND HEARD LITTLE WHAT THEY SAID...


IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU, DOUG! THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE! IN A FEW HOURS, OUR TIME WILL BE UP HERE!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE THROUGH TALKING, 'CAUSE I'M READY TO HIT THE SACK!

DOUG COTTER ONLY PRETENDED TO RETIRE! BUT AGAIN, AFTER HIS VISITORS WERE ASLEEP, SNEAKED INTO THEIR ROOM...

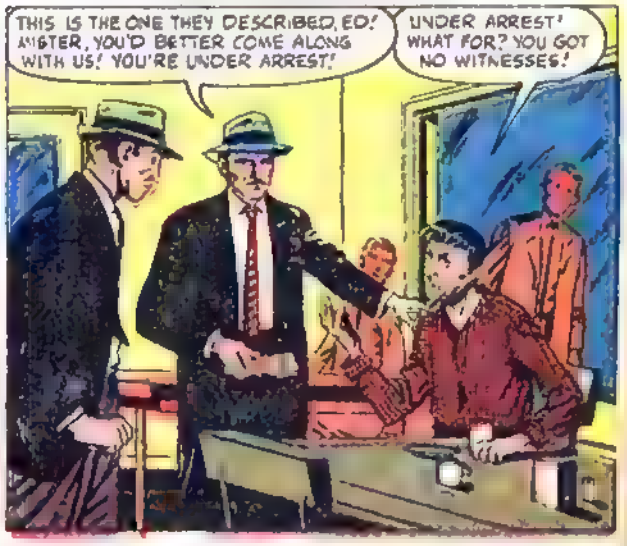
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY OF THIS MONEY! SOON YOU'LL ALL BE BACK IN 1991... THEN WHO'LL TESTIFY AGAINST ME?
SO YOU'RE GOING TO RUN AWAY! IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD, DOUG! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY FROM ME!

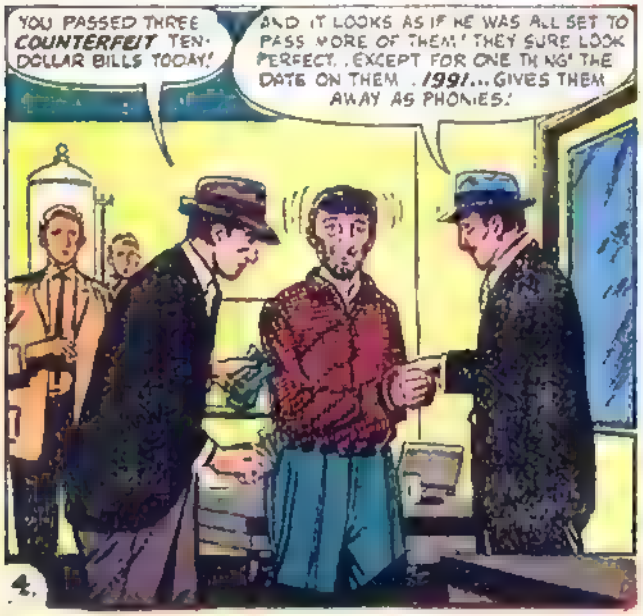
DOUG FLED INTO THE NIGHT! THE OLD MAN'S ominous WORDS MADE NO IMPRESSION ON HIM.

THE OLD MAN SEEMED TO COME FROM NOWHERE! HIS UNEXPECTED PRESENCE NEARLY CAUSED DOUG TO DROP HIS TRAY OF FOOD

YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT, DOUG NOBODY WILL BE AROUND TO PROSECUTE YOU FOR STEALING THAT MONEY! BUT YOU'RE STILL GOING TO PRISON!
YEAH? BIG TALK! HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT ME?

HE STARED LONG AND HARD AT THE OLD MAN. THEN SUDDENLY HE WAS STARING AT AN EMPTY CHAIR! DOUG HAD NOT NOTICED TWO MEN APPROACHING HIM...


THIS IS THE ONE THEY DESCRIBED, ED! MISTER, YOU'D BETTER COME ALONG WITH US! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
UNDER ARREST! WHAT FOR? YOU GOT NO WITNESSES!


YOU PASSED THREE COUNTERFEIT TEN-DOLLAR BILLS TODAY!
AND IT LOOKS AS IF HE WAS ALL SET TO PASS MORE OF THEM! THEY SURE LOOK PERFECT...EXCEPT FOR ONE THING! THE DATE ON THEM ...1991!... GIVES THEM AWAY AS PHONIES!

DOUG COTTER UNDERSTOOD A FEW THINGS BETTER NOW FOR HE HAD RECOGNIZED THE OLD MAN FROM THE FUTURE, BUT TOO LATE...

STAMPS

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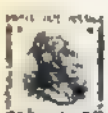

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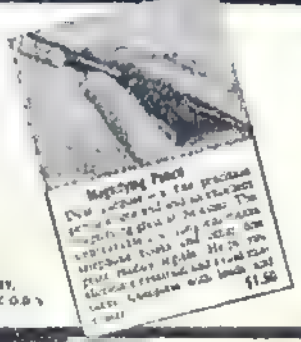
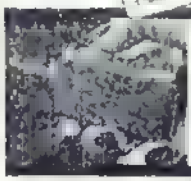
Gadgets





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for centuries have been fascinated by the mystery of the Mona Lisa smile. To all men, her smile has a different meaning. Yet all men find her fascinating. Why should it be different with me? What difference does it make that Da Vinci didn't paint me? You said I was amazingly lifelike. Now, you *know* that I am. Just think how fascinated all your friends will be when they gaze upon me. They'll be so impressed with me, they'll never stop to study me as closely as you did. And if they should by some chance . . ."

"You wouldn't talk to them?" Ezra gasped. "Then they'd know for sure. I couldn't let *that* happen."

"Why not?" the figure argued. "They'd consider you a genius. You'd own the only talking picture in the world. Da Vinci or not, they'd consider me the most unusual creation in history."

The words sunk slowly into Ezra's mind. He gazed solemnly at the painting. "I guess you're right at that. But I choose not to exhibit you. I'll neither boast about you nor confess that I was fooled. But your words have convinced me that I should keep you as a companion and not as an art treasure. You will not have to worry about your future."

"Thank you so much," the figure replied. "I would welcome other people to admire me, but I certainly shall be content with your company and approval."

And so the odd relationship began. Ezra Standish's whole life changed. His preoccupation with business waned. His colleagues noted the change in him and attributed it to advanced age.

Sometimes, he spent the evening in long discussions with his new friend. They covered art, poetry, politics and religion. At intervals, they settled down to games of chess, with the figure calling his moves from his canvas.

Ezra was careful to conceal his activities behind closed doors so that his servants' suspicions would not be aroused. But he could not conceal the fact that he was a far happier man than he had ever been before.

And then tragedy struck. It came suddenly. Thieves timed the departure of his servants from the house perfectly, and they stole the priceless painting. When Ezra came home and found it gone, he was inconsolable.

He called the police and pleaded with them to recover his painting. He notified his insurance agents that he did not want the money in return for his treasure. He announced a reward to anyone who would return the painting to him.

Finally, Ezra's hopes were realized. The tremendous publicity attending the theft prevented the robbers from selling the painting to a legitimate broker. In desperation, they turned to a dealer in stolen property. By chance, police checked his establishment just when the thieves arrived with the portrait.

Ezra's joy was unconfined. His painting was returned and he was happy to pay the reward. His ultimate pleasure came when his painting was hung on his living room wall once more. Finally, he was alone with the familiar figure.

"I understand that there was quite an uproar after I disappeared," he said slyly. "I was disappointed in you though, telling the newspaper I was a priceless Da Vinci. I thought that you had gotten over that. Did you only want me back because you were afraid someone would discover I wasn't really a Da Vin. Or were you worried about your investment?"

"I'm disappointed in *you*," Ezra rejoined softly. "If I were interested in the money, I could have collected the insurance. And I'm no longer concerned with what the art critics would say about you.

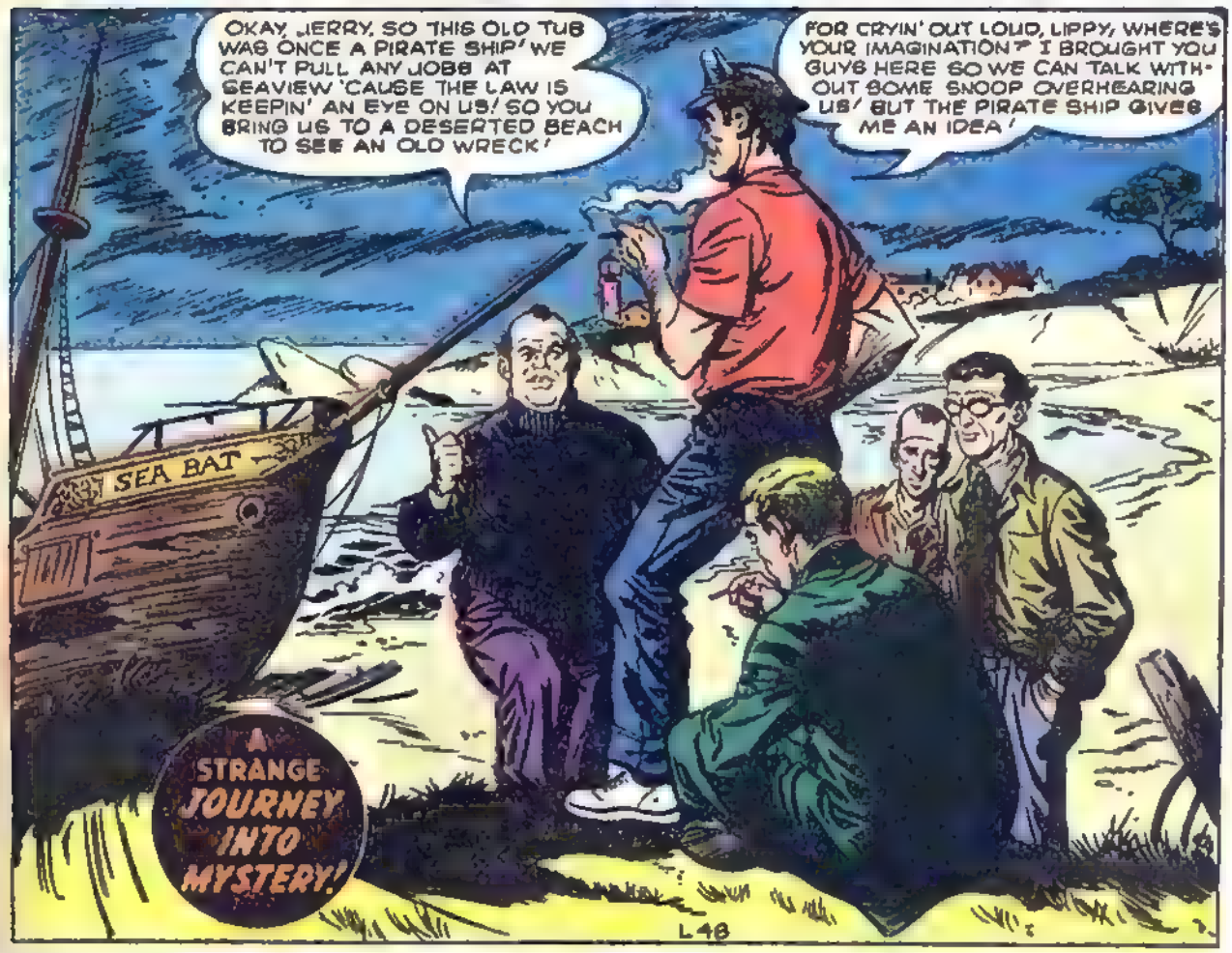
"I wanted you back because I missed you. I've learned that true, warm companionship means more than money or prestige to me."

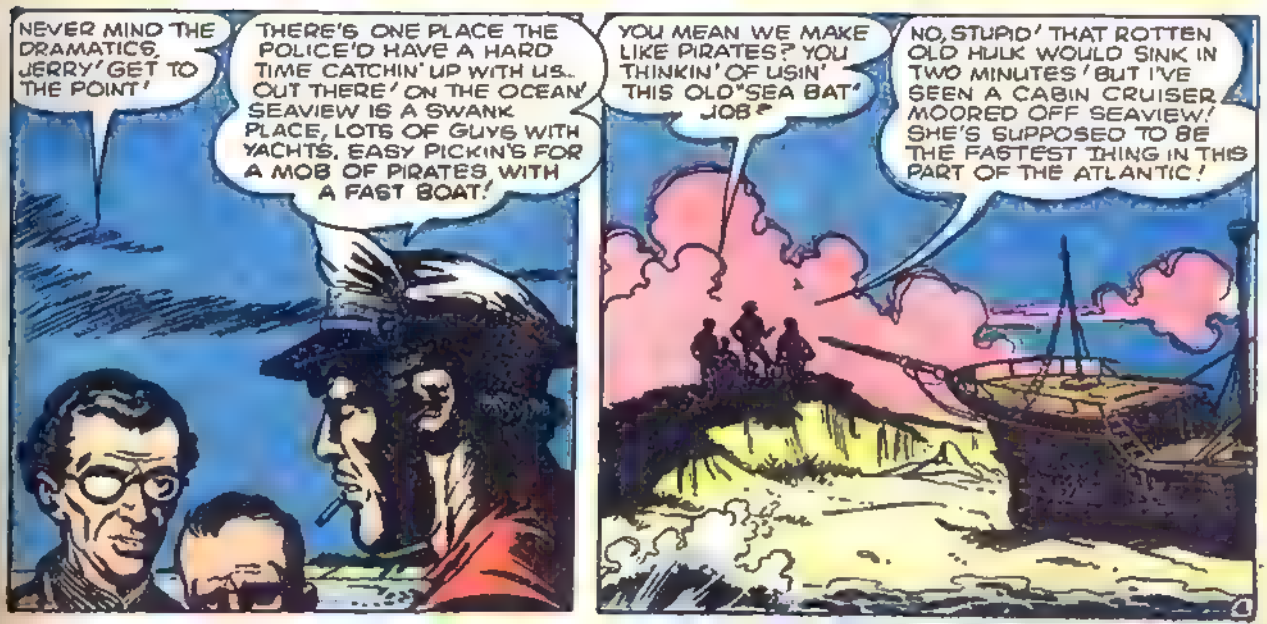
The records show that Ezra Standish retired shortly after and lived a long and happy life.

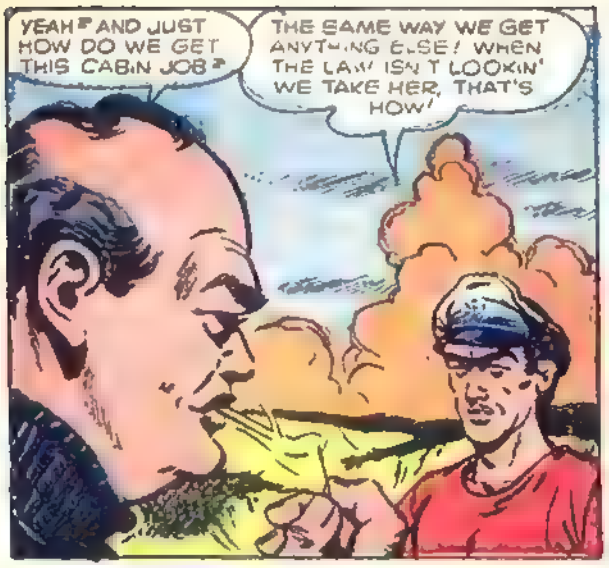
THE END J-244

THE MOB HAD A NEW ANGLE ON AN OLD GAME! THEY HAD THE POLICE STUMPED, TOO, UNTIL OUT OF THE MIST, THAT MOVED OVER THE SILENT SEA, LOOMED THE GIANT SILHOUETTE OF THE...

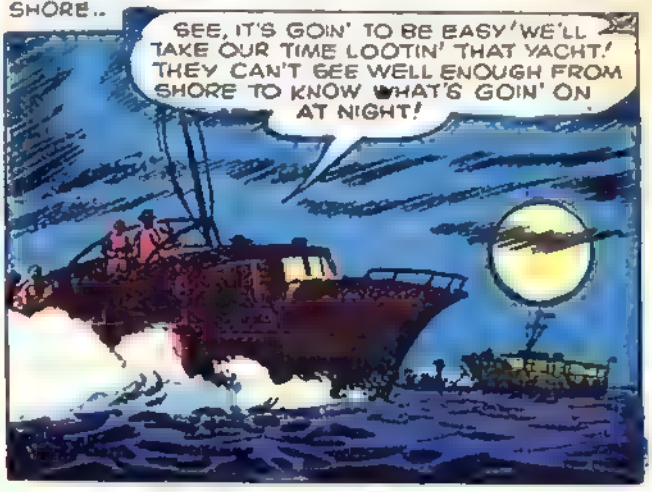
GHOST SHIP!


OKAY, JERRY, SO THIS OLD TUB WAS ONCE A PIRATE SHIP! WE CAN'T PULL ANY JOBS AT SEAVIEW 'CAUSE THE LAW IS KEEPIN' AN EYE ON US! SO YOU BRING US TO A DESERTED BEACH TO SEE AN OLD WRECK!
FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, LIPPY, WHERE'S YOUR IMAGINATION? I BROUGHT YOU GUYS HERE SO WE CAN TALK WITHOUT SOME SNOOP OVERHEARING US! BUT THE PIRATE SHIP GIVES ME AN IDEA!
SEA BAT
A STRANGE JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY!
L48


NEVER MIND THE DRAMATICS, JERRY! GET TO THE POINT!
THERE'S ONE PLACE THE POLICE'D HAVE A HARD TIME CATCHIN' UP WITH US.. OUT THERE! ON THE OCEAN! SEAVIEW IS A SWANK PLACE, LOTS OF GUYS WITH YACHTS. EASY PICKIN'S FOR A MOB OF PIRATES WITH A FAST BOAT!
YOU MEAN WE MAKE LIKE PIRATES? YOU THINKIN' OF USIN' THIS OLD "SEA BAT" JOB?
NO, STUPID! THAT ROTTEN OLD HULK WOULD SINK IN TWO MINUTES! BUT I'VE SEEN A CABIN CRUISER MOORED OFF SEAVIEW! SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE FASTEST THING IN THIS PART OF THE ATLANTIC!

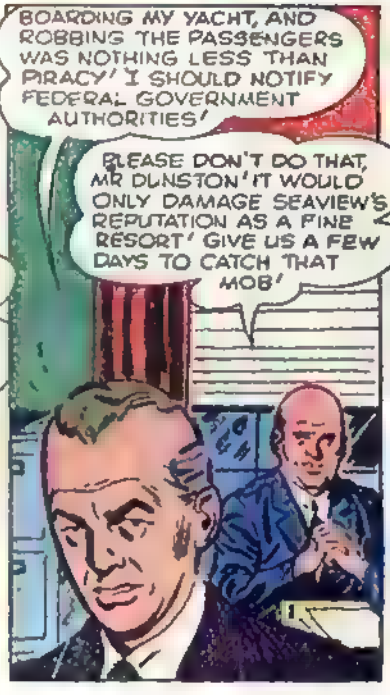


JERRY BLAKE AND HIS MOB LOST NO TIME IN APPROPRIATING THE SLEEK CABIN CRUISER, AND THAT SAME NIGHT THEY LAY IN WAIT A MILE OFF SHORE..

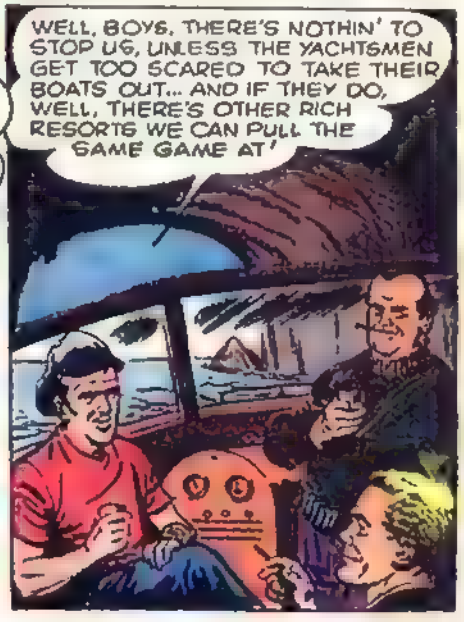

SEE, IT'S GOIN' TO BE EASY! WE'LL TAKE OUR TIME LOOTIN' THAT YACHT! THEY CAN'T SEE WELL ENOUGH FROM SHORE TO KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON AT NIGHT!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING MILLIONAIRE ARNOLD DUNSTON PACED THE FLOOR AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS..

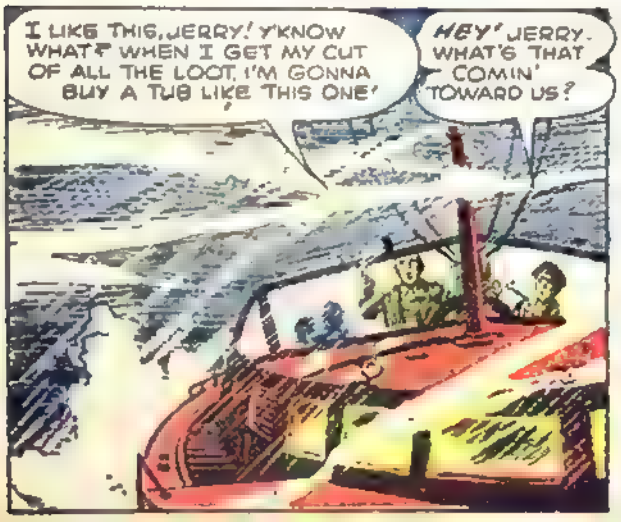
THEY TOOK FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CASH AND JEWELS FROM ME AND MY GUESTS! I'LL NEVER REST TILL I SEE THOSE HOODLUMS BEHIND BARS!
WE'LL PUT THEM THERE, TOO, MR DUNSTON! WE HAVE TWO HELICOPTERS OUT NOW LOOKING FOR THAT CABIN CRUISER AND A FLEET OF POLICE LAUNCHES!

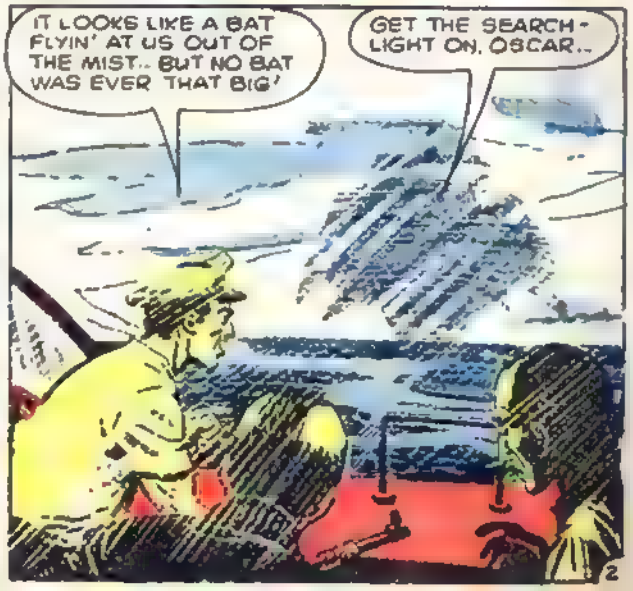

BOARDING MY YACHT, AND ROBBING THE PASSENGERS WAS NOTHING LESS THAN PIRACY! I SHOULD NOTIFY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES!
PLEASE DON'T DO THAT, MR DUNSTON! IT WOULD ONLY DAMAGE SEAVIEW'S REPUTATION AS A FINE RESORT! GIVE US A FEW DAYS TO CATCH THAT MOB!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT, THE GANG WAS SAFELY HIDDEN ABOARD THE CRUISER IN A CAVE IN A ROCKY COVE.


WELL, BOYS, THERE'S NOTHIN' TO STOP US, UNLESS THE YACHTSMEN GET TOO SCARED TO TAKE THEIR BOATS OUT... AND IF THEY DO, WELL, THERE'S OTHER RICH RESORTS WE CAN PULL THE SAME GAME AT!

A HEAVY MIST LAY OVER THE OCEAN THAT NIGHT, WHEN THE PIRATE MOB SET OUT TO FIND ANOTHER VICTIM...

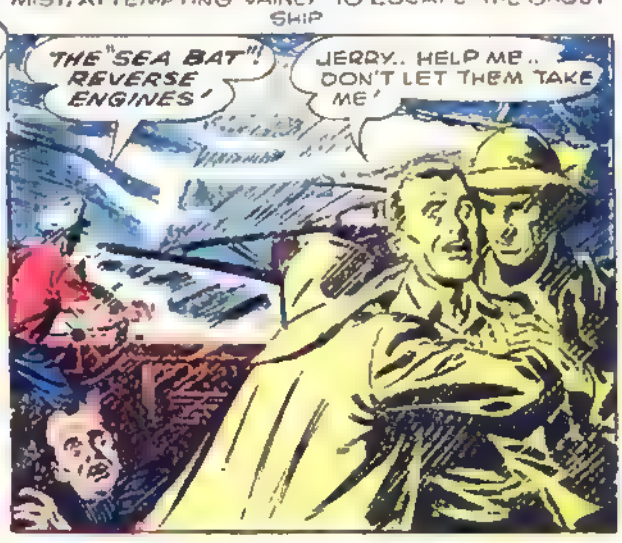

I LIKE THIS, JERRY! Y'KNOW WHAT? WHEN I GET MY CUT OF ALL THE LOOT, I'M GONNA BUY A TUB LIKE THIS ONE!
HEY! JERRY, WHAT'S THAT COMIN' TOWARD US?



WHAT GOOD IS IT GOING TO DO TO SHOOT AT A SHIP! LET'S BEAT IT AWAY FROM HERE, JERRY!
THIS IS CRAZY! IT'S THAT ROTTEN OLD HULK.. BUT LOOK AT IT NOW!
SEA BAT

JERRY. USE THAT TOMMYGUN! HELP ME, JERRY!
I I CAN'T LIFT MY ARMS, HERB! IT WOULDN'T DO ANY GOOD! THOSE PIRATES CAN'T BE REAL!

THEY JUST WENT OVER THE SIDE AND VANISHED INTO THE MIST! HERB'S GONE!
THAT'S TOUGH! BUT IT'S THE CHANCE HE TOOK! I'M NOT WAITIN' AROUND FOR THE SAME THING TO HAPPEN TO ME!


JERRY STEERED THE BOAT THRU THE BLINDING MIST, ATTEMPTING VAINLY TO ESCAPE THE GHOST SHIP
THE "SEA BAT"! REVERSE ENGINES!
JERRY.. HELP ME.. DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME!

I CAN'T STOP 'EM... I'M NOT DOIN' ANYTHING BUT RUNNING!

JERRY, HEAD BACK FOR LAND! I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE OF THIS! IT'LL BE ONE OF US NEXT!
I CAN'T GO BACK! I'M LOST. DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO TURN!

AND IT HAPPENED AGAIN.
LET ME TAKE THE WHEEL! I CAN'T DO ANY WORSE THAN YOU!
LIPPY! JERRY! SAVE ME!

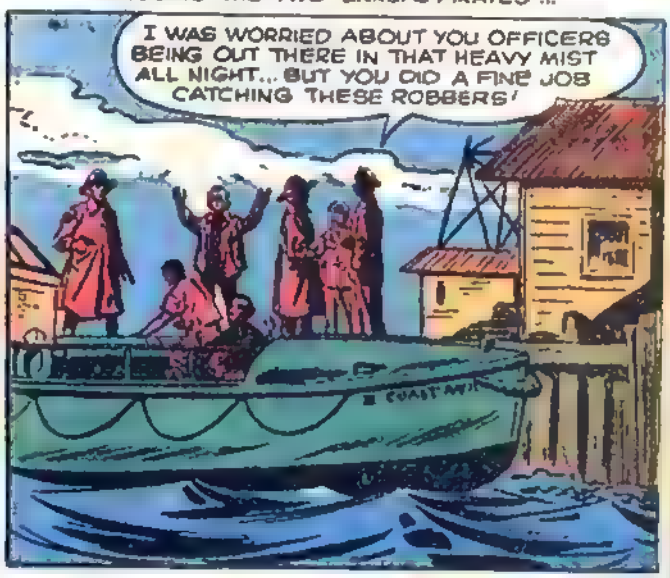
LIPPY AND JERRY STRUGGLED FOR CONTROL OF THE BOAT! THE CRUISER KNIFED THRU THE FOG WITH NOBODY AT THE HELM.

CAN'T YOU SEE, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO'S GOT THE WHEEL! THAT'S A GHOST SHIP...NO MORE REAL THAN THOSE PIRATES WE CAN'T AVOID THEM!
I DON'T CARE...YOU GOT TO LET ME TRY!

JERRY RELINQUISHED THE WHEEL TO LIPPY BURTON AND THE CRUISER SPED ON THRU THE MIST-SHROUDED NIGHT.

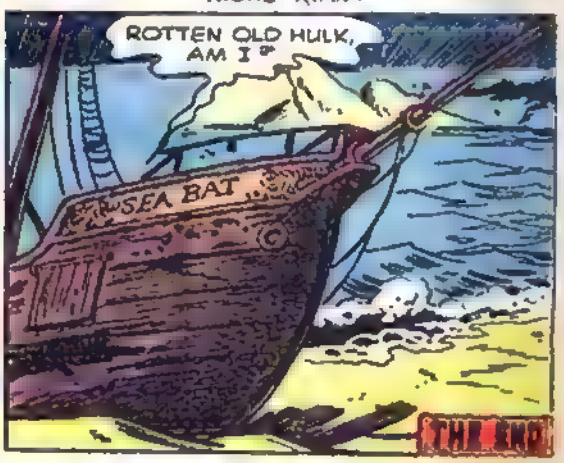
IN HIS FRENZIED EFFORT TO ESCAPE, JERRY NARROWLY AVOIDED THE "SEA BAT"! THEN THE CABIN CRUISER RAN OUT OF FUEL.

NEXT MORNING, THE BADLY-SHAKEN MOB WAS HUSTLED ONTO THE SEAVIEW DOCK BY THE POLICE, INCLUDING THE TWO "UNREAL PIRATES"...


I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU OFFICERS BEING OUT THERE IN THAT HEAVY MIST ALL NIGHT... BUT YOU DID A FINE JOB CATCHING THESE ROBBERS!

WE NEVER SAW THE BOAT YOUR MEN WERE ON..BUT THAT GHOST SHIP..WHAT ABOUT THAT? THE WAY IT KEPT COMING AT US OUT OF THE MIST!
GHOST SHIP! THAT WAS YOUR IMAGINATION! TAKE 'EM AWAY, BOYS!
A M

IMAGINATION? THEN WE WONDER HOW CHIEF GRAHAM WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE TOMMY-GUN BULLETS IN HER HULL! IF THE "SEA BAT" COULD SPEAK, SHE'D PROBABLY SAY NOTHING MORE THAN.



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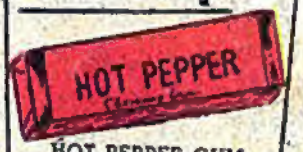

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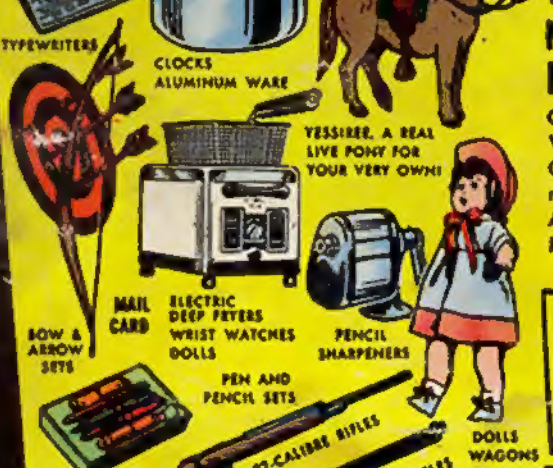

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